NORTH AMERICA.

No. 9. (1863.)

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

MR. ADAMS

RESPECTING

ENLISTMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS

IN THE

FEDERAL ARMY.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1863.

LONDON:
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Correspondence with Mr. Adams respecting Enlistment of British Subjects in the Federal Army.

No. 1.

Earl Russell to Mr. Adams.

Foreign Office, November 20, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to acquaint Mr. Adams, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, that Her Majesty's Government are informed, by persons to whom they are disposed to give credit, that recruits are being raised in this country for serving in the army of the United States, and that bounty money of a considerable amount is offered by agents of the United States to encourage British subjects to enlist.

Mr. Adams must be well aware that any of Her Majesty's subjects enlisting in the military service of either of the belligerent parties in America, or any persons procuring any of Her Majesty's subjects to enlist in that service, are guilty of a misdemeanour according to British law; and Mr. Adams will readily see that such a practice as that to which the Undersigned now calls his attention is calculated seriously to increase the difficulties already incident to the observance of neutrality by Her Majesty's Government.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 2.

Mr. Adams to Earl Russell.—(Received November 22.)

Legation of the United States, London, November 21, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note from the Right Honourable Earl Russell, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated the 20th instant, acquainting him that Her Majesty's Government are informed, by persons to whom they are disposed to give credit, that recruits are being raised in this country for service in the army of the United States, and that bounty-money of a considerable amount is offered by agents of the United States to encourage such enlistment. His Lordship is further pleased to warn the Undersigned of the fact that such acts are contrary to British law, and are calculated seriously to increase the difficulties already incident to the observance of neutrality by Her Majesty's Government.

The Undersigned flatters himself that the earnestness of his previous and long continued urgency on Her Majesty's Government to enforce the strict observance of neutrality in the ports of this Kingdom in many cases of attempted violation of it on behalf of the rebels against the authority of the United States, to which it has been his painful duty to call their attention, must have secured him from the suspicion of any disposition himself to give the smallest countenance to any enterprise or effort of a similar kind on behalf of the United States.

The Undersigned not only has no knowledge of any such proceedings, but he has no belief that they can have been attempted by any persons really vested with authority as agents of the United States. Should it turn out that these are individuals assuming to act under such an authority, the Undersigned will be obliged to Earl Russell for such information as he may possess that may enable him to ascertain who these persons may be, and to take the necessary measures to disavow their operations.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

No. 3.

Earl Russell to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 16, 1862.

WITH reference to my note of the 26th ultimo, I have the satisfaction of informing you that further inquiries which have been instituted respecting the alleged recruiting in London for the United States' army seem to establish that the reports to that effect which had reached Her Majesty's Government were without foundation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 4.

Mr. Adams to Earl Russell.—(Received April 11.)

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, April* 10, 1863.

IN the note which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 6th instant,* in reply to yours of the 2nd instant,† I inadvertently omitted to make a remark upon one passage which I had intended, and which it seems to be my duty yet to supply. I refer to that in which you observe that I am "not ignorant that it is now again asserted that Her Majesty's subjects are being recruited for the purpose of aiding the United States against the so-called Confederate States."

In point of fact, at the time of receiving your Lordship's note I was ignorant that such an assertion had been made in any quarter deserving of notice. But inasmuch as I have since perceived the story, wherever originated, to have gained credit in the mind of your Lordship, and also to have been dignified by the notice of the First Minister of the Crown, in his place in the House of Commons, I must now ask permission to recall your attention to the denial I was authorized by my Government to make of any such action, so long ago as in my note of the 30th of December last.‡ I beg leave now to repeat that denial, and further to observe, that there is no Agent of the United States here possessed of authority "to recruit Her Majesty's subjects within this Kingdom for the purpose of aiding the United States against the so-called Confederate States." Should any person appear, professing to have such powers, I should be much obliged for any information which would enable me to report his conduct promptly to my Government.

I supply this omission in my former note to your Lordship expressly to preclude any unfavourable influence which might be drawn from my silence, and not from any intrinsic importance attached by me to the rumour.

I pray, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

No. 5.

Earl Russell to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, renewing your assurances in regard to the alleged recruiting in this country for the army of the United States.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 6.

Earl Russell to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 16, 1863.

WITH reference to your letter of the 10th instant, in which you repeated the denial you had formerly made of the truth of the report that men were being recruited in this country for the United States' army, I think it right to communicate to you the substance

* See "Correspondence respecting Confederate Agents" (North America, No. 8, 1863), page 17.
† Ibid, page 15.
‡ See "Correspondence respecting the 'Alabama'" (North America, No. 8, 1863), page 29.

of a report which has just been made to Her Majesty's Government with regard to the number of persons who are now being shipped as emigrants from Queenstown to New York.

It is stated that within the last fortnight 1,278 emigrants have sailed, the greater number being strong, active young men; that it cannot be doubted that they are intended for the United States' army, and that, in fact, many of them do not deny it.

A certain number of these men were militiamen from Cork and its vicinity, and they informed the emigration officer that they would get from 250 to 300 dollars bounty. It also appears that the prospect of this large bounty has been held out to young men by general rumour throughout the country.

It is further stated that the friends of these persons in America are paid so much for obtaining and bringing them over to New York.

I do not think it necessary to encumber this letter with further statements of a more or less trustworthy character, which have reached Her Majesty's Government, corroborative of this asserted recruiting of Her Majesty's subjects for service in the United States' army; and I shall, therefore, merely add that I am informed that about 800 young men were booked to sail from Queenstown by the steamer of the 9th instant, it being freely spoken of that all the young men were going to join the Northern army, and that although the Inman Company have put on additional steamers, the number of applicants for passage is so great that they cannot all be accommodated, and that several hundreds are consequently left behind each week.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 7.

Mr. Adams to Earl Russell.—(Received April 19.)

My Lord, *Legation of the United States, London, April* 18, 1863.

I AM very much obliged to you for the courtesy extended to me in the communication of the substance of a report which has been made to Her Majesty's Government with regard to the number of persons who are now being shipped as emigrants from Queenstown.

The fact that a great many people, especially in Ireland, have been anxious for some time past to find their way to the United States has been made known to me by the frequent applications to this Legation for free passage. A considerable proportion of these contain offers to enlist in the service of the Government. No doubt they are more or less influenced by the high bounties offered in America, accounts of which have been, from time to time, published in the newspapers here. To all such solicitations the answer given from here has been uniformly to the effect that no authority has been given by the Government to listen to any proposals of the kind or to make any engagements whatever. Instructions have likewise been sent to the respective Consuls, who have reported similar proposals to me to make the same answer. I have no reason to believe that any American citizen in England, clothed with authority, has ventured to act in any other way.

It is proper for me to add, in explanation of the emigration that is taking place, that a gentleman of influence in America, now in London, who is in a situation to know, has lately informed me that some of the great corporations for the extension of railways in the western part of the United States, having experienced inconvenience from the liability of the labourers in their employ to be drafted for the war, and apprehending more, are making efforts to procure large supplies from other countries of aliens, who are from that circumstance exempted from the risk of being called into service. It may be that some of those who desire to get across the ocean, for the purpose of enlisting, expect to take advantage of the opportunity thus placed before them.

In addition to this, there is no doubt of the fact of a scarcity of labourers in the United States. I learn from private sources that the rate of wages this season is very much advanced.

I am led to believe that these causes, in addition to the alleged distress of the population of Ireland, may explain the phenomena of emigration to which your Lordship has been pleased to draw my attention.

I pray, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

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